

supremacy and the directors of the Christian Science Mother Church are endeavoring to overcome "this subtle belief." This human discord is deplored by the pacific and applauded by the militant members of the church. Discord is producing disintegration, and the membership of the Christian Science Church has fallen away to such an extent that the Church refused to furnish the Bureau of the Census any statistics as to its dwindling membership.

Spokesmen of great authority in Eddian Circles state that "the error of division is due to ecclesiastical despotism," but that this moral chemicalization "will inure only to the destruction of error and the rapidly approaching dissolution of the ecclesiastical organization."

The "Christian Scientist" of New Orleans, edited by Stephen H. Alison and Alice Boyd, makes this pertinent comment on the Eddian fratricidal war:

"The fight for freedom of thought over ecclesiastical domination which has so completely shaken up the organization and resulted in an attempted boycott of the *authorized* publications, not the *unauthorized*, but all the publications issued by the Publishing Society, together with the resignation of the editors of the 'Journal' and the 'Sentinel,' indicate almost desperation on the part of those siding with the directors, over the adverse legal decision recently rendered, but the appointment by the Publishing Society of Frederick Dixon as editor of the 'Journal' and 'Sentinel' will enable him to bring to these periodicals also the same journalistic ability which has distinguished his editorship of the 'Christian Science Monitor,' which as an international newspaper has done more to promote the prestige of Christian Science than have all the other periodicals together since the passing of the Founder.

"The error of division due to ecclesiastical despotism, the evils of which Mr. Dixon has so clearly pointed out, does not affect 'the heart and soul of Christian Science' even if litigation seems to indicate that the material organization, or 'the letter is but the dead body of Science,—pulseless, cold, inanimate.'"

POLITICS AND HEALTH

It is unnecessary to state to those readers of the JOURNAL who are members of the State Medical Society that this JOURNAL is non-partisan and non-political and that it never appraises men or measures from the partisan standpoint but from the standpoint of public welfare.

An opportunity was given to the two great political parties, both of which claim to be devoted to the public welfare, to pronounce upon the subject of Public Health, which is the most vital question to the progress of the people individually and collectively.

The Republican party held its convention first this year and adopted a set of principles on which it seeks the endorsement of the voters. The platform of the Republican party on which it appeals to the people of the United States to entrust it with power at the coming November election contains the following health plank:

"A thorough system of physical education for all children up to the age of 19, including adequate health supervision and instruction, would remedy conditions revealed by the draft and would add to the economic and industrial strength of the Nation. National leadership and stimulation will be necessary to induce the states to adopt a wise system of physical training.

"The public health activities of the Federal Government are scattered through numerous departments and bureaus, resulting in inefficiency, duplication and extravagance.

"We advocate a great centralization of the Federal functions, and again urge the better coordination of the work of the Federal, state and local health agencies."

We regret that the Democratic party at its National Convention in San Francisco failed to recognize the obligation of a great party to foster and further public health work. Its singular silence upon this important subject becomes all the more remarkable and reprehensible, when one reads the full text of the Democratic platform and find its proponents pointing with partisan pride to achievements that were dependent upon scientific health service.

The health of our soldiers was of primary importance to the Government during the war and their care was entrusted to competent hands. The vigorous health of our troops was a decisive factor during the short destructive days of war, and a constructive reconstruction demands that the health of the troops returned to civil life, as well as all other civilians, be properly protected. The ounce of prevention should be applied during the days of peace as adequately as during the days of war. The physical defects disclosed by the medical examining boards kept weak links out of the far flung battle line.

The doctors neither request nor require eulogies for their devotion to duty. In the army camps, in the base hospitals, in the front line of trenches, on land and sea, they were found defending the nation's defenders from the invisible foes of disease, binding up the wounds of the fallen and restoring the sick to health and vigor.

General Pershing was in a position to see and appreciate the value and work of the doctors. He says: "Many of them shared with the line troops the hardships of campaign conditions, and have sustained casualties and privations with fortitude that is beyond praise. The pro rata death rate of the medical officers exceeded that of engineers and aviators."

The influence of the doctors who served in the war upon the health of our present and future generations is immeasurable. They have sent back into civil life four million young men,—the very flower of our chivalry with a more intelligent interest in health conservation, with a better understanding of the value of a strong healthy mind in a sound body and an appreciation of the necessity of adequate health regulations.

The health work of the doctors during times of peace has been no less renowned than during times of war. One of the best by-products of the war is the awakening of the people to the im-

portance of health work. The importance of this work and the wisdom of a strong statement upon it coupled with a positive platform pledge were clearly placed before Senator Carter Glass, the chairman of the Democratic Platform and Resolutions Committee, and his fellow committee members.

The fact that the health service of the United States and of the various states is and should always continue to be non-political has not in the past deterred both great political parties from taking definite positions for its advancement. Although more deaths result annually from the lack of maternal care than the total casualties of the war, the entire expenditure of the Government during the past year appropriated for the work of the only bureaus relating to women and children was less than five and one-half thousandths of one per cent!

Editorial Comment

In view of the specious claims of "chiropractics," and of their campaign of misrepresentation in California, there is published on another page of this issue an article entitled "The Fountain Head of Chiropractics," taken from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for July 3, 1920. Physicians will here find information worthy of wide dissemination among their patients and friends.

Do not fail to read every word of Dr. Alvarez' special article in this issue. It will provide you with ammunition, and being provided, do not fail to shoot and to shoot straight. The time is past when the medical profession, charged with the protection of the health of the public, can afford to ignore or leave unmolested the lying propaganda and malicious commercialism of half-baked, half-educated, half-witted fanatics of various cults and sects whose aims would result in serious detriment to the public health. State the facts without fear or favor. It is now the open season for all faddists who are a public nuisance and a danger to the people's health. Go after them.

The progress made by Ohio in systematizing and advancing its general social program has been attributed largely to the Ohio Council of Social Agencies. This organization was formed in July, 1919, as a result of a conference arranged by Governor James M. Cox shortly after the signing of the armistice. The public departments had been gathering for many years a vast amount of social information. Recently, the private agencies have gathered more, but until the Council was organized, this information was unrelated, and as in other states, little information was exchanged between departments. The Ohio Council has been able to pool this information through a special sub-committee known as the County Case Committee. This committee studies the needs of the state, county by county, and makes recommendations to the Council. In

cases where not enough knowledge of a community has been compiled, and where the city or county invites it, the Council stands ready to make an extensive social survey.

According to the Social Hygiene Bulletin the new marriage law passed by the Parliament of Sweden is perhaps the most progressive in the world. Its leading principle is "to make the position of husband and wife equal; their rights and duties mutual in every respect, and to make them both responsible for home and family." Under this new act the guardianship of the husband is totally abolished. A wife may, like her husband, choose her own domicile, and is entitled to take her working utensils and part of the furniture. She may practice any trade or profession without her husband's consent and has all liberty of contract even with her husband." Regulations for divorce are enunciated in the law as follows:

If both want to dissolve their marriage, they have only to send in to the proper authority an application for separation, which is then granted for one year without any further investigation. When the year is out each of the parties may urge full divorce and is not obliged to give any grounds for his or her demand. Divorce is then immediately granted. If they or one of them want to get a divorce without going through a year of separation, or if only one party desires separation against the wish of the other, reasons must be given. Such reasons are mainly infidelity, desertion, debauchery and drunkenness, neglect of family duties, and knowingly exposing the other party to contagion through venereal disease.

Special Articles

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO DEFEAT ANTI-HEALTH AND ANTI-MEDICAL LEGISLATION?

By WALTER C. ALVAREZ, M. D., San Francisco.

From present indications there are going to be four measures on the ballot in November which will strike directly at the public health. One aims to stop all animal experimentation in California; another to abolish compulsory vaccination; another to establish a special licensing board for chiropractors, and the other is a referendum on a law which excludes osteopaths from those who are entitled to have and use hypodermic syringes. All of these measures are bad and should be defeated. They will be defeated only if the physicians who know the facts will educate the public in the next three months. If the man in the street has no reason to doubt that the antivivisection measure is designed purely to stop the wanton torture of dogs by vicious medical students; if he thinks that small-pox is a thing of the past and that vaccination is dangerous and useless; if he thinks that osteopaths and chiropractors are noble men who are being denied a square deal by a jealous medical profession, why should he not vote for these measures? The physician is one of the few men in the community who can put him right, and who can combat the